



Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Lt. Governor Rebecca S. Skillman, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Joseph M. Kelsay, Indiana Agriculture Director

### **Additional Indiana Natural Disaster Areas & Assistance Announced**

INDIANAPOLIS (August 1, 2012) Lt. Governor Becky Skillman received word today that two additional Indiana counties have been declared primary natural disaster areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Farm Service Agency:

- Warren County
- Jackson County

One additional county has been declared contiguous (bordering county):

- Scott County

Today's announcement comes as the state awaits response to a recent letter requesting that the USDA declare *all* 92 counties in Indiana as natural disaster areas. Lt. Governor Skillman, Indiana's secretary of agriculture, and Executive Director Julia Wickard of Indiana's FSA, sent the letter last week to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack.

Such a move would make all Indiana farmers eligible to apply for assistance, due to losses caused by extreme drought.

"As the drought continues, the need for assistance becomes even more apparent," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. "We are all working on behalf of Indiana's farmers and doing everything we can to help get them through this difficult situation."

Currently a total of 81 counties are eligible for federal programs. In Indiana 66 been declared primary natural disaster areas, while 15 contiguous counties are also eligible for aid. This means farmers in each of these counties can apply for low-interest emergency loans through the department's Farm Service Agency.

Today's announcement by the USDA also includes improved flexibility in the Conservation Reserve Program, making more livestock producers and landowners eligible for emergency haying and grazing. Many crop insurance companies are also agreeing to provide a short grace period for farmers on 2012 premiums.

Indiana recently launched a comprehensive website dedicated to the latest developments on our state's efforts in response to the 2012 Drought. Visit [www.in.gov/drought](http://www.in.gov/drought) for more information on disaster declarations, assistance programs and additional resources for producers.

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